

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: MBFR: DRAFT FRG OPENING STATEMENT FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
IN VIENNA

GERMAN DELEGATION HAS PASSED US COPY OF PROPOSED FRG DRAFT OPENING
STATEMENT, WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT WEEK'S
MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP IN BRUSSELS.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, I WELCOME
(TODAY'S) BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF
FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
MY GOVERNMENT REGARDS THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS ANOTHER IMPORTANT
STEP TOWARDS THE LASTING PRESERVATION OF PEACE IN EUROPE.

2. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL GIVE RISE TO MANIFOLD EXPECTATIONS AND
HOPES - AND RIGHTLY SO. AFTER ALL, THEY REPRESENT A HISTORICAL
ATTEMPT TO REDUCE, IN A BALANCED MANNER, THE LEVEL OF THE FORCES
OF TWO ALLIANCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, IN THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN
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CONTINENT. IT MUST BE THE OBJECTIVE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT
THE REDUCTION OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO REACH PARITY BETWEEN
THE LAND FORCES AT A LOWER FORCE LEVEL. THE REDUCTION OF THE
MILITARY CONFRONTATION MUST AT NO TIME LEAD TO A LOSS OF SECURITY.

THE SIZE OF THE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED, WHILE THE STABILITY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATES IN EAST AND WEST SHOULD NOT ONLY NOT BE WEAKENED BUT ENHANCED.

3. IN OUR OPINION, THIS REQUIRES THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY ALREADY AGREED DURING THE CONSULTATION PHASE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE MILITARY BALANCE. THIS BALANCE SHOULD BE CREATED WHERE IT IS LACKING.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS ALWAYS REGARDED ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS EAST-WEST ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AS PART OF A WIDER POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN A LONG-TERM, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS OF DETENTE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE REDUCTION OF FORCES. MY GOVERNMENT THEREFORE EXPECTS THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL ALSO LEAD TO THE ADOPTION OF COLLATERAL MEASURES WHICH SERVE TO IMPROVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, TO AVOID CRISES AND TO INCREASE THE DURABILITY OF ANY AGREEMENT WHICH WE MAY REACH.

5. MY DELEGATION WILL BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES ALREADY KNOWN TO YOU:

- WE ARE AWARE THAT THE EXISTING SECURITY STRUCTURES ARE A PREREQUISITE TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THE POSSIBLE RESULTS MUST BE IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS BASIS.
- WE SHALL HAVE TO MEASURE THE RESULTS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG OTHER THINGS BY EXAMINING WHETHER THEY WOULD CONFLICT WITH THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE STRENGTHENING AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

6. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ON 15 MAY, THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE EXPLORATORY TALKS IN VIENNA ALREADY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MY GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS "AS PATIENTLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SOBERLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AS THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRES". I WISH TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SAME APPLIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEGUN (TODAY). WHILE MAINTAINING OUR INTEREST IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE EXISTING SECURITY STRUCTURE, WE ARE PREPARED TO ORGANIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH REGARD TO TIMING AND SUBSTANCE IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND ACCURATE METHOD OF WORK IS ENSURED FOR DEALING WITH THE COMPLICATED MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION.

7. OUR WORK WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MADE EASIER BY THE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE OF VIENNA AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S HOSPITALITY WHICH MANY OF US HAVE SO OFTEN ENJOYED. I WOULD LIKE TO SEIZE

THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF THIS.

END TEXT.

RUMSFELD

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